

## The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1912.

## BRING OUT THE TAX BILL.

The House Committee on Finance has had some time in which to formulate a tax bill of some sort for presentation to the House. It is to be hoped that as speedily as possible this bill may be brought out, so that due consideration may be given it and some definite agreement reached as to what form of tax equalization measure is to be enacted. The days are slipping by rapidly now, and every one of them counts; the sooner a tax bill is reported the better will the public interest be served. The committee has had a reasonable period in which to take into consideration the conflicting views and propositions and shape them into a compromise measure of some description.

Not only does The Times-Dispatch urge that the tax bill be reported as soon as possible, but it likewise would point out to the House the necessity for speedy action on its part so that the bill may go over to the Senate in time for that body to give it proper and similarly speedy consideration. Action on the matter of tax equalization is eagerly awaited by the people everywhere; all sorts of doubts and opinions are expressed in the press of the State; definite action will meet with much popular approval. As we have declared before, the tax equalization problem is the most vital and the most urgent before this General Assembly; it follows that as early action as possible is indispensable. The session is more than half gone, but nothing definite and tangible is yet before the General Assembly. All consistent dispatch in this matter must be had, in order that the tax bill may not be impeded and impaired in the fearful rush of legislation which will inevitably begin in a very short time.

Let the House Committee on Finance report without delay, and let the House act promptly.

## FALSE ECONOMY.

Certain members of the General Assembly go far afield to discover sources of economy in the expenditure of the State's money. Instead of achieving great savings by enacting great reforms, legislators go pottering around trying to fill up the small cut in the bottom of the barrel and leave the big catfish alone. Such lawmakers avoid reform of the fee system as if it were a fiery crater; they dodge the tax equalization issue as if it were a devil of the devil; they deliberately pass by the sources of great drains and waste, and howling "economy," try to cripple beneficent agencies of the State.

Such a policy is shown in the effort to abolish the United Agricultural Board. One of the chief arguments for the Rinehart bill to do away with this efficient organization is that its abolition will effect an economy. The passage of this bill would save \$15,000 to the State—twice, \$5,000 appropriated to Blacksburg, \$5,000 to the Virginia Experiment Station and \$5,000 to the Department of Agriculture. Yet if this Rinehart bill is passed, the State may lose \$20,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture and \$14,000 from county appropriations, a total of \$34,000, a possible net loss of \$19,000. The passage of this bill, it is said, will be the most severe blow which the agricultural interests of the Commonwealth have received in fifty years.

The result of the enactment of this bill, which has received a favorable report from the Senate Committee on Finance, is to destroy the United Agricultural Board, which has, in the opinion of those who are in a position to know, done the best work for agriculture and produced better results in connection with the United States Department of Agriculture than any other agency for the advancement of the agricultural interest of the people of Virginia.

Further, the Rinehart bill would place the control of demonstration work entirely under the State Board of Education, eliminating the United States Department of Agriculture, which spent \$15,000 in the State last year. If the United Agricultural Board is allowed to continue its work, that Federal department will spend the same amount this year in demonstration work among whites, in addition to \$5,000 for support of garden clubs for white girls in seven counties and for colored girls in four counties. Eight colored demonstrators will also be provided by the Washington authorities. It will be most difficult for the United States Department of Agriculture to carry on its work without the co-operation of the United Agricultural Board; it will be impossible, without the co-operation of that board, to cover the present territory. Forty-three counties have voted about \$14,000 upon the agreement that the United Agricultural Board will pay one-fourth of the cost of demonstration work, and that the Federal De-

partment of Agriculture will pay one-fourth. If this cannot be done, these appropriations will doubtless be withdrawn and a splendid benefit to Virginia farmers will be lost.

Of course, the Rinehart bill claims to continue demonstration work under the State Board of Agriculture with an appropriation of \$5,000. It is absurd to assert that the demonstration work can be carried on in forty-three counties for \$5,000. It is likely that fifty counties would make appropriations this year, but the work will have to cease unless a larger appropriation is made, and that work cannot be carried on at all in the counties now in co-operation with the board without the help of the United States Department of Agriculture, which the Rinehart bill cuts off.

Last year forty-five counties made appropriations, for the work of the United Agricultural Board and (forty-three) or more will do so this year. What better evidence could there be of the valuation put upon this work by the people of Virginia? Twice as many counties this year as last year are clamoring for a share in the benefits to be derived from the work under the auspices of the United Agricultural Board.

It cost less than \$300 last year for the expenses of the board. No economy can be urged in this respect, for the Board of Education could not possibly do the work for that amount. The Rinehart measure seeks to justify itself because of alleged duplication and lack of harmony, but fails to specify wherein the duplication exists and the inharmoniousness arises. Co-ordination and co-operation—two greatly to be desired conditions—have been brought about by the United Agricultural Board. It has done good work, has stimulated interests in advanced agricultural methods, has shown the farmers of this State their hitherto unknown possibilities and possibilities, has transformed (ethereal) land into fruitful fields and wrought powerfully for the uplift and betterment of the great agricultural class of Virginia. The demonstration work among the boy farmers alone has been enough to justify the continuation of the United Agricultural Board and its appropriation. The Times-Dispatch believes that the abolition of this most useful and progressive force for the promotion of the agricultural interests of our people would be a false economy and an inexcusable mistake. The Rinehart bill proposes reversion and retrogression; the State of Virginia cannot commit itself to such a policy.

## CHINA CONQUERS CHINA.

"The giant forms of Empire  
On their way to ruin,  
One by one they tower,  
Then totter to decay."

If the abdication of the Chinese throne by the Manchui dynasty shall prove permanent—an accomplished fact—China, in joining the great historic procession of fallen empires, as illustrated in Egypt, Assyria, Phoenicia, Greece, Rome, will have afforded another striking exemplification of these paraphrased lines. The passing of the Manchui will have marked one of the most remarkable and most revolutionary episodes in the annals of the world.

We are accustomed to speak loosely of the 300 years of Tartar, Mongol, Manchui, or what not, rule in China. As a matter of fact, China has not been under native rule for about a thousand years, the break represented in the accession of the Ming dynasty, from the close of which we are wont to date incisive domination, having been in reality only semi-Chinese. Prior to the first Mongol thread, and the founding of the Mongol dynasty by Kublai-Khan, the Chinese had for three thousand years or upwards not only been under Chinese racial sway, but in many respects were one of the most progressive nations of the earth. They had for that era made tremendous progress in a distinctive civilization, as typified in a Chinese art, literature, jurisprudence, and the pursuit of certain sciences.

Then, in a comparative sense, especially as respects these matters, the empire came to a standstill, and passed through a dark era intellectually, and people dwelt in the past, conservatism became a fetish. Though much of the light of Chinese anti-Mongol dynasty achievement, in the domains indicated, had penetrated through Korea into Japan, where gradually it continued to broaden at home, save for occasional flashes, its gleam remained as when unimpeded, semi-barbarous overlords made its advent. Virtually, no fresh oil was supplied the lamp; it was rarely trimmed, and its rays were directed to bringing out of the shadows of the past and keeping before the eyes and the minds of the people what China had been, not to illuminating a path for further advance.

As we have intimated on more than one occasion in discussing the conditions and the recent march of reform in China, the idea of the immediate creation, on the wreck of the Manchui order, of a Chinese republic modeled after the Occidental systems seems little short of fantastic. It is repugnant to every preconceived Western notion of Chinese traditions, methods of thought and character. It would appear to be metamorphosis in the extreme.

And yet, despite that view, amounting almost to absolute conviction, when we recall the astonishing awakening in the empire, which began only a little over two decades ago, and the rapid striding of events since it would be more than rash to assume that practically speedy evolution into that consummation is impossible. Along scores of lines the transformation has been phenomenal. No people have ever furnished a more wonderful example of movement from sudden lethargy and assimilation of foreign concepts of governmental regime and education

and progressiveness in so short a period. Moreover, amid it all, and inspiring it all in significant and ever increasing degree, is a spirit of nationalism and self-confidence which had been utterly absent in the race for centuries, and which the doubting Thomases would well take counsel or ere seal these doubts before the world.

Whatever may be in the womb of time, however, whether a republic or a return of the old regime in some form, it cannot be questioned that for the present at least China has conquered China. Equally unquestionable is it that in this conquest the promise and the prophecy are the dawning for China of another day of civilization, enlightenment and national and socialistic evolution, which, although the alien Manchui giant of empire has tottered to decay, will check her way to the national ruin that has so long seemed imminent!

## A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

City government by commission in Virginia achieved a substantial advance in the passage yesterday of the resolution submitting to the people in November a constitutional amendment granting to the General Assembly the right to permit cities to adopt "special" forms of government. The proposed amendment is, of course, not as radical as the friends of the commission plan of city administration would have it, but they take courage in the belief that this concession is the opening wedge for the complete reform which lies in the not far distant future. The commission plan is yet in its experimental phase; it is being tried out, and Virginia will make the most of the experience, the mistakes and the benefits of cities in other States. The unanimous action of the General Assembly in passing this resolution augurs well for the future.

Home rule for cities is, of course, the idea toward which all progressive cities are striving. When such a principle is engrafted upon our laws, the best interests of the city and of the State as well will be best served. Every city ought to be encompassed with the least possible restrictions by the State, as to its government, so that it may have fair opportunity and free room to determine what form of administration is best for its own particular conditions. The more largely the Legislature is divorced from the government of cities, the greater the possibility that the cities will prosper and become more efficiently governed. City home rule will come by a process of evolution, its approach will be gradual, but none the less inevitable.

## NEGLECTED TIMBER RESOURCES.

The value of the hickory as a commercial wood product is such that the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture has issued a special circular recommending simple and practical methods, which, if put into practice between October 1 and May 1, will protect the hickory from the deadly insects which destroy it. The hickory, next to the walnut, is our most valuable Virginia tree. Within the last ten years the hickory bark beetle has been shown to be by far the most destructive insect enemy of the hickory, and in the majority of cases is responsible for its present widespread dying.

It is high time that the owners of forest land realize the great value of the hickory and the walnut, which so often, in ignorance of their real value, are employed for ordinary timber uses instead of being conserved or put on the market where the real value of the timber could be had. Hickories are generally cut down ruthlessly and without any attempt at conservation; in Patrick county and other localities some have made fence rails out of valuable walnut trees, which would have commanded considerable prices on the market. By proper conservation methods, these noble and valuable trees can be made to multiply both in value and number, and this fact ought to be kept in mind by those who are so blessed by nature as to possess them.

Because she has steadfastly refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States government, Mrs. Thomas Anderson, of New Orleans, a niece of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, has delayed pressing her \$50,000 claim against the government for the burning of her residence and personal property in Mississippi by Federal soldiers in the War Between the States. General Lee took the oath of allegiance shortly after the war ended.

Great damage was done in New York by the explosion of a magazine. Strange to say, it was not the Outlook.

A dispatch from Chicago says four white murderers there object to being hanged with a negro. Would not be surprised if they objected to being hanged with anything.

The Texas judge who got down from the bench to thrash a man who had called him a liar and then fined himself for contempt of court, must have been acting in a dual capacity.

By declining Seth Bullock's invitation to hunt buffalo, Colonel Roosevelt indicates that he is after bigger game.

The Alabama official who desires the reduction of his salary appears to have few, if any, imitators in Virginia.

A Chicago woman has been sent to jail for not saying anything. Would it not be more appropriate to send her to a museum?

The worst money trust is for a sum which we cannot afterwards collect.

For good reasons, Madero is not now as strongly in favor of revolution as he once was.

## WASHINGTON

By Roy K. Moulton

George's Body Servant.

Washington, February 14.

Dear Editor: There is one unique institution in Washington, and I must speak of it briefly or explode. The institution referred to is George Washington's personal body servant. He is a numerous and ubiquitous institution and can be found in the most surprising walks of life. The first one I discovered was running the elevator in our hotel.

He is the only surviving body servant of George Washington in this city, but they are said to be scattered about through other portions of the South quite disintegrated. I have met twenty or twenty-five only surviving body servants, and I have been here only a short time, and will probably meet the rest of them before I leave. George Washington must have been surrounded by a standing army of body servants.

As I have stated, the first personal body servant of George Washington I met was running the elevator in our hotel. He told us about it while we were going from the first floor to the second. Personal body servants of the late George Washington have died. We looked deeply and handed him \$1 in grateful appreciation of services rendered the truthful George. There may be something in environment, but none of George's well-known truthfulness ever sought any of his body servants. The body servant running the elevator looked to be about forty years old.

"What's your name?" we asked, a friendly Sherlock Holmes idea having penetrated our dome of thought. "Abraham Lincoln Jones," he replied, with a face as innocent of guile as that of a standpat congressman making a speech in his home district.

"Ah, ha! If you are old enough to have been George Washington's body servant how could your name be Abraham Lincoln?" "Well, boss, you see it's dis yere way. I herited it from my fathah and he herited it from my granfathah, so I have got de job now. I am Washington's body servant. My fathah done telt me so. My granfathah he thought of it first and held de job till he dis, den he turn it over to my fathah, den he turn it over to me. My son will be de personal body servant of Marne Washington in a few years now."

There was no argument to be used against that. It runs in the family like quaillover eggs, but horses or wooden legs, and the only thing to do is to hand over the price. When we see a personal body servant of George Washington loom up on the horizon now we simply dig and ask no questions.

The Washington Monument is 550 feet in height. The top of this monument is the only point in Washington from which it is possible to overlook the sins of the United States Senate. You get to the top of the monument by means of an elevator and you can come down any way you want. If you can't come down it is better to jump, for by doing so you can get back to Washington in an incredibly short space of time. From the top of the monument an ordinary citizen on the ground looks to be about as small as a flea. Some of the statesmen look a good deal bigger, but that, especially since the recent election.

The monument is heated by steam and lighted by electricity inside, but I would not care to use it as a place of residence. The ceiling is too high, and it requires a lot of wall paper to cover it in the spring. The monument is about fifty feet square at the bottom, and is sharp at the top. They probably sharpened it at the top so that no loafers would sit on it. I am going up again to-morrow to see if I can reach the high cost of living. It doesn't cost anything in the elevator, and lots of people go just for the ride.

## Voice of the People

The "Final Perseverance" of Reform.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Whatever your readers may think or not think of final perseverance as a principle of theology, there can be no two opinions among intelligent people as to its correct application to the final natural laws. For the same reason, there can be no two opinions as to its application to these social and community laws which are based upon elemental justice. Whatever is right will certainly prevail notwithstanding temporary reverses, and whatever is wrong will certainly fall notwithstanding temporary successes.

Now lest I be further tedious, I wish to state this declaration of fundamental principles that I announce the final perseverance of reform, and I will come immediately to the application everybody has in view just now—namely, equal suffrage, on the one



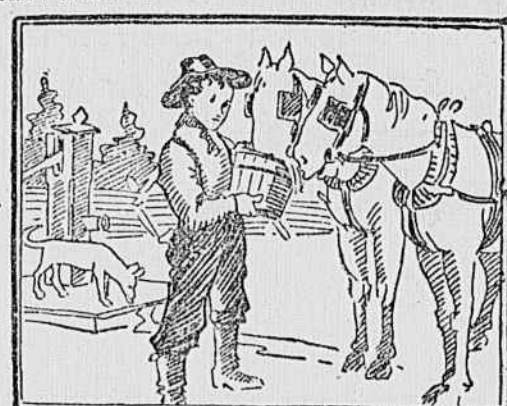
## THE FARMER BOY THAT DOESN'T SUCCEED IN THE CITY AND THE ONE THAT DOES.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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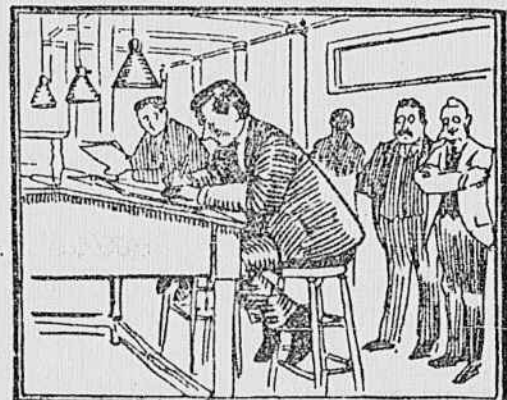
"I tried this new job, working from daylight to dark. I'm going to Chicago, where you don't have to work so blamed hard. I want to see a little gayety."



"I am not the one who tried Chicago and buckled down to hard work for a few years I'd make a go of it."



"Now, this is better—I can see something of life up here."



"I have to work about as hard here as I did on the farm, but I am determined to win out at it."



"There seems to be a conspiracy against country boys up here—they don't seem to be able to get any sort of a job that pays well."



"They seem to be working harder here, and they say we have higher ideals and better habits of industry."

Moral:—"It all depends on the boy."

hand, and the destruction of the liquor traffic on the other. Are these reforms? That is the question. Is equal suffrage? Is it right to destroy the liquor traffic? Answer these questions honestly, and we need trouble ourselves very little about the outcome. They will arrive.

Incompetent agents and ineffective methods may postpone fundamental reforms for a time, so may the insurrection of power or the cabal of corruption. Who has not seen the wicked in great power and spreading himself as a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not seen. I sought him, but he could not be found. But after all, he has served a useful purpose, because temporary defeats are often vital to the most fundamental reforms. They teach us to exercise more discretion and wisdom in the adoption of methods and measures. This is the way it is working in the two reforms to which we have already called attention. To put equal suffrage upon a wise, conservative, intelligent basis is certainly the problem now before our progressive and constructive statesmen. That it will be eventually accomplished there is no doubt, whatever, and when it is done, and your intelligent, cultured and morally sensitive women come to vote, there will be several institutions of a public nature which will "see the rocks and mountains," etc. You know the rest. People who are immediately interested in these peculiar institutions are not advocating women suffrage in Virginia. The same is true of others, many others who are not financially interested in the outcome of the movement, but they are hard up for arguments against it when they undertake to make the suffrage so vile a means to the end that it is worthy of angelic woman, that she should never think of stooping to touch it. Perhaps we do not have to go very far to see that it is this conception of manhood suffrage, this deliberate debasing of this making it more than half vile, which is responsible for that alarming degeneracy we are witnessing right now in our southern counties, even in Virginia.

God save the Commonwealth.

Now just a little word about the enabling act by way of application. How many people do you hear denouncing the liquor traffic, per se? How often do you hear any one making a long argument that it is a divine institution, or that it is even a decent human one? Its warmest friends say that it is evil, and most of them admit that it is only evil. Their defense is that it is inevitable; that we cannot get rid of it; that prohibition, as we know it, is a farce or a hypocrisy, and that reform is impossible. To argue against these assertions would be just about as rational as to make a serious argument that the sun would certainly rise, even though the day be cloudy. We have far better business, let us believe in the final perseverance of reform. Let us believe that the sun will rise through all clouds, and in spite of all clouds.

Let us also line up on the side of reform, and do it openly, decisively. It should not be necessary to inquire of any man where he stands with regard to issues of so much importance, moral and political. Because this particular issue is moral as well as political, there arise these charges of insincerity and hypocrisy. Right at this point is an exceedingly interesting study of human nature, but we haven't time for that now. We are working for the destruction of admittedly the greatest evil in the modern world—be just as willing to destroy it in your private cupboard as anywhere else. Does the elder joint in which you are interested promote drunkenness (a very

common charge)? Be just as willing to destroy that for the common good as any other dive on any other back street. Cut deep, to the bone if necessary—your own bone.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly, give us the enabling act, and see what will come of it. And give our women, God bless 'em, the chance to vote only this once on this one question, and see what the bird-owners in my immediate section will do of it.

Savannah, Ga.

B. C. MOOMAW.

Let the Game Laws Alone.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I have just read in your paper of Monday, the 13th, the place written by a gentleman from Farmville, speaking against a State game law. This gentleman has put up decidedly the most sensible argument on the subject that I have seen in every way. He has expressed the views of every farmer (owners of the birds) in this section. I can, of course, only say what the bird-owners in my immediate section want, which is a greater part of Appomattox and Campbell counties. It does seem that the people who own the land and the birds, the birds, should have some say in the matter, but as it is he has absolutely none. We send men to the Legislature, and a few of the town sportsmen get hold of him, and he makes a law to suit those sportsmen, and I dare say that few of those sportsmen own an acre of land or certainly few of them own the land that has the birds on it, and what right have they to take away the man's right that does own land and birds? There are few men who hunt quail and kill more than myself. I have been in this section for twenty years, and we had more game last season than I have seen here in any other two seasons, and there is an abundance of it left for next year. As the gentleman from Farmville said, the hawk hunt 365 days in the year and he's the hunter that's destroying the game mostly. Now if the sportsmen or the Legislature wants to save the game let them put such a bounty on hawk bills as to justify people to trap them. As I stated above, I can only

speak for the farmers in my section, and to put it in plain words, the farmers have gotten sore about such game laws, and just a few more game laws or a little more added to those we have, and the town man or sportsman from town will have to his hunting in town, the farmer puts all the blame on the hunting clubs of the cities for such laws, and it has almost reached the point now that unless Mr. Sportsman has a cousin out here he had better not come, because he will get a wave from the farmer's mighty hand, who remembers that he was the man who put up the many arguments our representatives to stop hunting. This is the way the farmers feel about it.

Spout Spring.

W. T. STEELE.

Needed Reading for Legislators.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Your position in reference to the reorganization of the defeated congressional amendment has made a deep impression upon me, as has also your map of the proposed new congressional districts.

I am sure that a large majority, if not all, of the members of our Legislature wish to do what is right, therefore I would suggest that you publish for the information, the following from the Constitution of Virginia:

1. Section giving the oath required of members of the Legislature.

2. Section regarding amendments to Constitution.

3. Section regarding division of the State into congressional districts (printing the words "contiguous" and "compact" in capital letters).

Richmond, W. W. HARDWICKE.

Labor Exchange.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—In order to make our Chamber of Commerce more useful to the city, I would suggest that, if necessary, a new committee from its body be formed, whose duties would be, in connection with the secretary, to keep a list of all white persons out of work desiring employment, also a list of those whose duties would be, in seeking labor.

Richmond, J. W. MELTON.

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Richmond, Virginia

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